

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00

COME-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15

AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-06 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 GSA-02 INT-05

/128 W

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R 120530Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9372

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0155

USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, SN

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER AGREEMENT -
PRICE STABILIZATION

REF: SINGAPORE 5267

1. AS REPORTED IN REF, THE ANRPC IS MOVING AHEAD WITH THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER COUNCIL
WHICH WOULD BE CHARGED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER AGREEMENT ON PRICE STABILIZATION.

JAN. 11 BUSINESS TIMES, REPORTING ON THE INITIAL MEETING
OF A THREE-DAY ANRPC MEETING BEING HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR,
QUOTES MALAYSIA'S PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK ABDUL
TAIB MAHMUD AS CLAIMING THAT THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE
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INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER COUNCIL WILL BE STABILIZATION
OF NATURAL RUBBER PRICES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GUARDING
AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SCHEME BECOMING A CARTEL.

2. THE BUSINESS TIMES ARTICLE SAID IN PART THAT "NATURAL
RUBBER PRODUCERS ARE SINCERE IN WANTING A BROADER INTER-
NATIONAL AGREEMENT AS PART OF THE UNCTAD INTEGRATED PROGRAM

FOR COMMODITIES WHICH WOULD INCLUDE BOTH PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES. THE PRODUCERS ARE AIMING AT STABILIZING RATHER THAN PUSHING UP PRICES, THE MINISTER TOLD THE MEETING. 'WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE EXPEDITIOUS NEGOTIATION AND CONCLUSION OF A WIDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON PRICE STABILIZATION UNDER THE UNCTAD INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES.'

"THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO SET UP THE MACHINERY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER AGREEMENT ON PRICE ESTABLIZATION WHICH WAS CONCLUDED IN JAKARTA IN NOVEMBER 1976. THE AGREEMENT, SIGNED BY MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND SRI LANKA, PROVIDES FOR AN INITIAL INTERNATIONAL BUFFER STOCK OF 100,000 TONS. IT ALSO ENVISAGES A SUPPLY RATIONALIZATION SCHEME TO REGULATE THE FLOW OF NATURAL RUBBER TO THE MARKET ON THE BASIS OF PREDETERMINED EXPORT QUOTAS FOR ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES. "THIRTY-FOUR DELEGATES FROM THE FIVE SIGNATORY NATIONS ARE ATTENDING THE MEETING. AN OBSERVER FROM UNCTAD IS ALSO TAKING PART. THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA MR. VU BACH MAI AND DIPLOMATS FROM MANY CONSUMER COUNTRIES WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING."

3. EMBOFFS HAVE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS WITH KEY MEMBERS OF THE RUBBER COMMITTEE FOR NEXT WEEK AND WILL SUBSEQUENTLY REPORT THEIR VIEWS ON THE KUALA LUMPUR MEETING.
HOLDRIDGE

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